

(c) and (d) NTPC will take steps to obtain necessary clearances and commitments in respect of availability of land, water, no objection from State Pollution Control Board, the State Government and other agencies after techno-economic feasibility of the proposed power plant is established and its location is finalised.

Expansion of rural roads

*166. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to expand the rural roads through the Prime Minister's Rural Road Programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been launched on 25th December, 2000 to provide road connectivity in the rural areas of the country. The Programme envisages connecting all Habitations with a population of over 1,000 persons, through good, all-weather roads, by the year 2003 and those with a population of more than 500 persons, by the year 2007. In addition to providing connectivity to about one lakh Habitations, the Programme also aims to upgrade, to specifications, about 5 lakh kilometres of existing Rural Roads.

The requisite Guidelines in this regard, for the year 2000-2001, have been communicated to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Losses in power sector

*167. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent of the total electricity produced in the country is wasted in the form of transmission and distribution and out of the remaining 60 per cent, 20 per cent electricity is stolen;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the country suffers a loss of Rs. 37,000 crores every year in the power sector; and

^tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.